

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 3 and 10-16, without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter.

Please amend Claims 1 and 4-9 as indicated below. The following is a complete listing of claims and replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the present application:

1. (Currently Amended) An information processing method for encrypting encoded image data, comprising steps of:

a step of inputting encoded image data and corresponding header data, wherein the header data includes first error-detecting encoding information and second error-detecting encoding information;

determining, based on the first error-detecting encoding information, whether the inputted encoded image data includes an error-detecting code;

modifying, if the determining indicates that the inputted encoded image data includes the error-detecting code, the inputted header data, the modification including:

modifying the first error-detecting encoding information to indicate that the encoded image data does not include the error-detecting code, without removing the error-detecting code from the encoded image data, and

modifying the second error-detecting encoding information to indicate that the first error-detecting encoding information previously indicated that the encoded image data includes the error-detecting code;

a step of encrypting the inputted encoded image data including the error-detecting code; and

a step of changing presence/absence information, which is contained in header data of the encoded image data indicates presence/absence of an error-detecting code, to the absence of the error-detecting code, and outputting the encrypted encoded image data outputting the encrypted encoded image data and the modified header data.

2. (Original) The method according to claim 1, further comprising a step of outputting decryption key information required to decrypt encrypted data.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim [[3]] 1, wherein the saving step includes a step of saving the presence/absence information in the header data as first error-detecting encoding information is defined in the JPEG 2000 standard format and the second error-detecting encoding information is a comment defined in the JPEG 2000 standard format.

5. (Currently Amended) An information processing method for decrypting encrypted encoded image data encrypted by an information processing method of claim 3, comprising steps of:

a step of inputting encrypted encoded image data and corresponding header data, wherein the header data includes first error-detecting encoding information and second error-detecting encoding information;

a first checking step of checking determining, based on the second error-detecting encoding information, whether or not the saved presence/absence information indicates the presence of the inputted encrypted encoded image data includes an error-detecting code;

a second checking step of checking determining whether or not key information required to decrypt the inputted encrypted encoded image data is available; [[and]]

modifying, if the second error-detecting encoding information indicates that the inputted encrypted encoded image data includes the error detecting code, the inputted header data, including modifying the first error-detecting encoding information to indicate that the inputted encrypted encoded image data includes the error detecting code;

decrypting, if the key information is available, the inputted encrypted encoded image data; and

a step of changing, when it is determined in the first and second checking steps that the error detecting code is present and the decryption key information is available, the presence/absence information contained in the header data to the presence of the error detecting code, decrypting the encrypted data, and passing the decrypted data outputting the decrypted image data and the modified header data to an encoded image data decoding process.

6. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 5, wherein when it is determined in the first and second checking steps that further comprising a step of decrypting,

if the inputted encrypted encoded image data does not include the error-detecting code is absent and the decryption key information is available, the encrypted data is decrypted without changing modifying the presence/absence first error-detecting encoding information in the header data.

7. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 5, wherein when it is determined in the first and second checking steps that further comprising a step of passing, if the decryption key information is not available, the inputted encoded image data [[is]] directly passed to the encoded image data decoding process.

8. (Currently Amended) An information processing apparatus for encrypting encoded image data, comprising:

an input unit for inputting encoded image data and corresponding header data, wherein the header data includes first error-detecting encoding information and second error-detecting coding information;

a determining unit for determining, based on the first error-detecting encoding information, whether the inputted encoded image data includes an error-detecting code;

a modifying unit for modifying, if the determining indicates that the inputted encoded image data includes the error-detecting code, the inputted header data, the modification including:

modifying the first error-detecting encoding information to indicate that the encoded image data does not include the error-detecting code, without removing the error-detecting code from the encoded image data, and

modifying the second error-detecting encoding information to indicate that the first error-detecting encoding information previously indicated that the encoded image data includes the error-detecting code;

an encrypting unit for encrypting the inputted encoded image data including the error-detecting code; and

a unit for changing presence/absence information, which is contained in header data of the encoded image data and indicates presence/absence of an error detecting code, to the absence of the error detecting code, and outputting the encrypted encoded image data an outputting unit for outputting the encrypted encoded image data and the modified header data.

9. (Currently Amended) A computer readable storage medium storing a program which, when executed, performs an information processing method for functions as an information processing apparatus for encrypting encoded image data, when said program is loaded and executed by a computer, said program functioning as the method comprising:

a unit for inputting encoded image data and corresponding header data, wherein the header data includes first error-detecting encoding information and second error-detecting encoding information;

determining, based on the first error-detecting encoding information, whether the inputted encoded image data includes an error-detecting code;

modifying, if the determining indicates that the inputted encoded image data includes the error-detecting code, the inputted header data, the modification including:

modifying the first error-detecting encoding information to indicate that the encoded image data does not include the error-detecting code, without removing the error-detecting code from the encoded image data, and

modifying the second error-detecting encoding information to indicate that the first error-detecting encoding information previously indicated that the encoded image data includes the error-detecting code;

a unit for encrypting the inputted encoded image data including the error-detecting code; and

a unit for changing presence/absence information indicating presence/absence of an error detecting code contained in header data of encoded data to the absence of the error detecting code, and outputting the encrypted encoded image data outputting the encrypted encoded image data and the modified header data.

10. - 16. (Canceled)